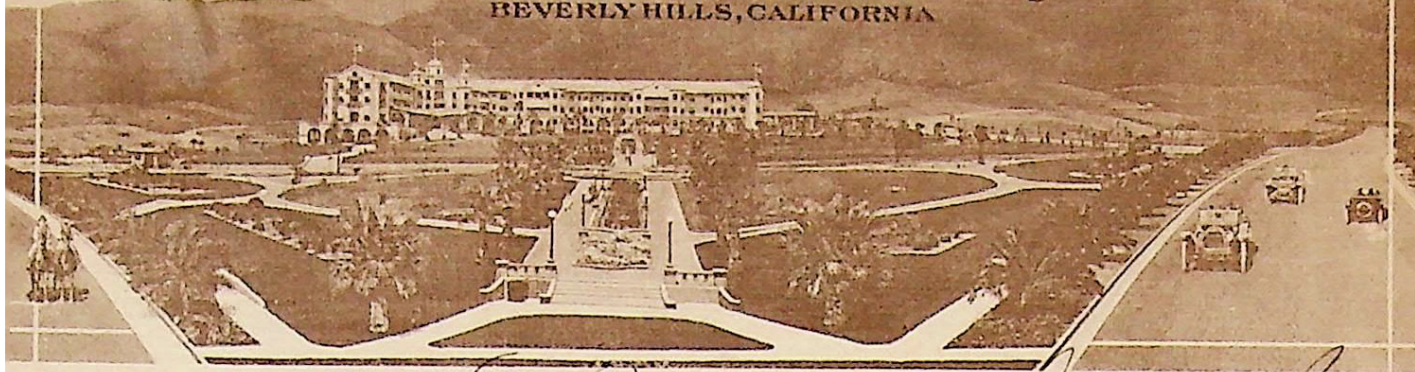


Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA



April 15/23

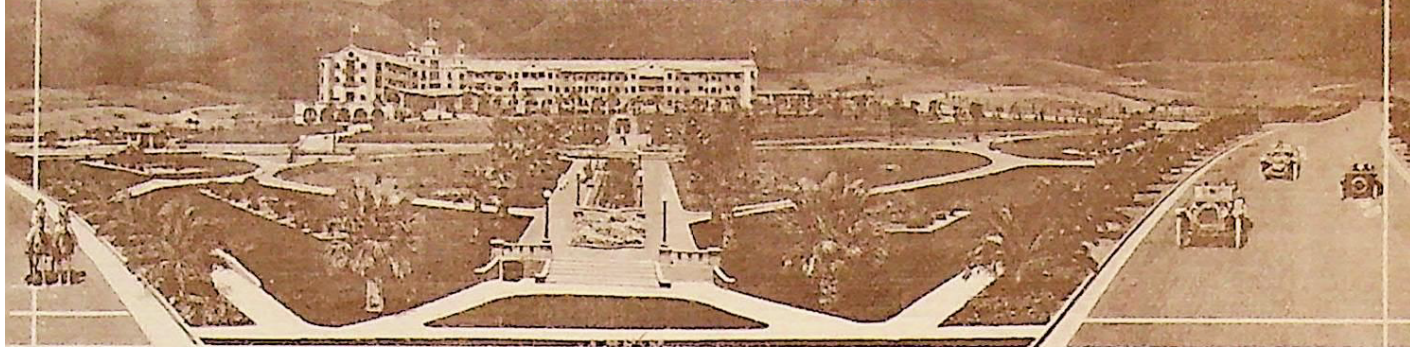
My dear W. Sumner:

Am indeed sorry I was forced to miss one of your delightful evenings. They are always a tonic to me, & I count myself fortunate to be numbered among your friends & to be of your gatherings.

On this occasion, however, I was struggling with an indisposition; still I went in town in the afternoon to partake of a tea given for a literary friend who is leaving for Washington, D. C. - expecting later to join Mayland Smith & came out to your house. About seven I phoned Mayland & was feeling really ill, & believed I should go home. Coincidentally with that he said he was in the front of phoning me that one of his

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neuralgic attacks had come on & suddenly (as they often do with him) & he felt quite unequal to going out. So bereft of my escort to be, & so nearly ill I came home. I think

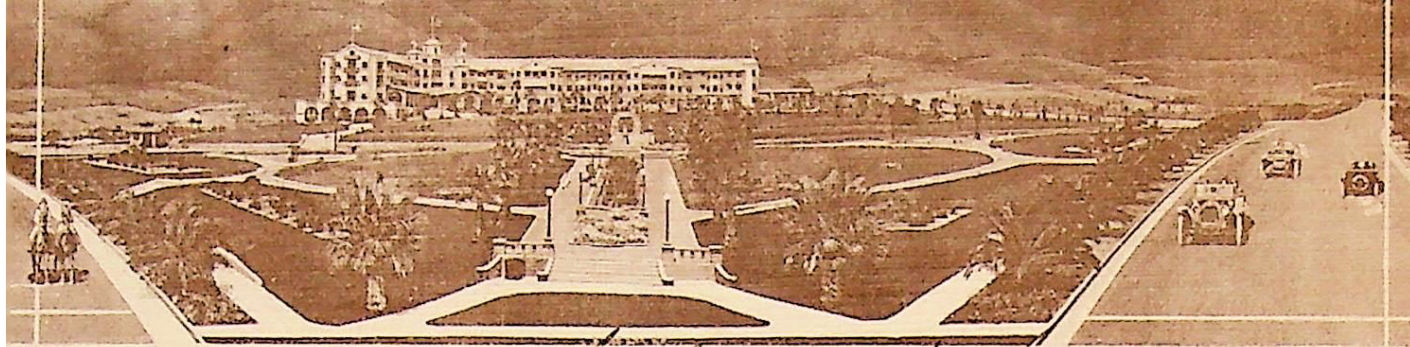
My land phoned you our sincere regrets. But anyway, I wanted you to know that only a serious necessity kept us away. And I am sure you know we appreciated the invitation & I fully realize all I must have missed. I always enjoy your hospitality.

Let me hope you are feeling quite like yourself again these lovely days. & that I may be included in your interesting gatherings another time.

By the way. I am still spreading the gospel - or your gospel, as

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you once asked me to do: a friend wants the Spanish songs - & I want another copy for myself. This one I will not give away. So if you feel inclined to autograph it for me, I shall prize it all the more.

Am enclosing my check for \$3.00 which I believe covers the price. Please send to me care Beverly Hills Hotel, where I shall be until Mr. Gillette & family returns from abroad this fall. I then their hotel bungalow in my care until then.

With best wishes always.
Bernie Blahely.